

Applicant : Bradley L. Northman et al.
Appln. No. : 09/586,813
Page : 4

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A mirror comprising:

a housing;

a mirror subassembly including a reflector layer with a portion defining an opening;

~~an indicia~~ panel covering the opening, said panel ~~and~~ configured to form a visual display of indicia, the indicia having a characteristic color; and

at least one light source positioned in the housing to ~~pass-emit~~ emit light through the indicia on the panel and through the opening of the mirror subassembly to selectively illuminate the visual display ~~indicia, the at least one light source emitting a light matched in color to the characteristic color of the visual display of the indicia panel.~~

2. (Withdrawn) The mirror defined in claim 1, wherein the mirror subassembly includes an electrochromic mirror subassembly, the electrochromic mirror subassembly including front and rear transparent elements, and a layer of electrochromic material associated with the front and rear transparent elements, the reflector layer being associated with the rear transparent element.

3. (Currently amended-withdrawn) The mirror defined in claim 1, wherein the indicia on the panel includes ~~has an~~ alphanumeric characters ~~visual display formed thereon.~~

4. (Original) The mirror defined in claim 1, wherein the color of the at least one light source is non-white.

5. (Original) The mirror defined in claim 4, wherein the color is amber.

Applicant : Bradley L. Northman et al.
Appln. No. : 09/586,813
Page : 5

6. (Currently amended) ~~The A mirror defined in claim 5~~comprising:

a housing;
a mirror subassembly including a reflector layer with a portion defining an opening;
an indicia panel covering the opening and configured to form a visual display having a characteristic color; and
at least one light source positioned in the housing to pass light through the indicia panel and the opening of the mirror subassembly to selectively illuminate the visual display, the at least one light source emitting a light matched in color to the characteristic color of the visual display of the indicia panel, wherein the color of the at least one light source is non-white, wherein the panel includes a diffuser layer having a color matching the at least one light source.

7. (Currently amended-withdrawn) The mirror as defined in claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ the indicia on the panel includes ~~indicia~~ symbols defining a ~~passenger~~ supplemental inflatable restraint status display.

8. (Currently amended) A vehicle rearview mirror assembly comprising:

a housing;
a mirror subassembly disposed in said housing and including at least one transparent element and a reflector layer associated with said at least one transparent element, a portion of said reflector layer defining an opening; and
a passenger supplemental inflatable restraint display for displaying the enablement status of passenger supplemental inflatable restraint, said display comprising:
an indicia panel disposed in said housing behind said mirror subassembly so as to cover the opening in said reflector layer, said indicia panel including an opaque region and a plurality of substantially non-opaque regions defining a plurality of indicia symbols, said plurality of indicia symbols including a first indicia symbol, a second indicia symbol, and a third indicia symbol, wherein at least one of said substantially non-opaque regions define said first indicia symbol

Applicant : Bradley L. Northman et al.
Appln. No. : 09/586,813
Page : 6

and has an amber color, and wherein said indicia symbols include alphanumeric letters; and

a plurality of light sources positioned in said housing to transmit amber colored light through said substantially non-opaque regions of said indicia panel and through said mirror subassembly to selectively display the illuminated indicia symbols, wherein said plurality of light sources includes at least a first light source associated with said first indicia symbol, a second light source associated with said second indicia symbol, and a third light source associated with said third indicia symbol, said first, second, and third light sources are independently activated from one another so as to independently illuminate said first, second, and third indicia symbols; and

a baffle subassembly disposed ~~between~~ relative to said light sources and said indicia panel such that light from said first light source does not illuminate said second and third indicia symbols, light from said second light source does not illuminate said first and third indicia symbols, and light from said third light source does not illuminate said first and second indicia symbols.

9. (Previously presented) The vehicle rearview mirror assembly of claim 8, wherein said first indicia symbol includes a plurality of alphanumeric letters spelling the words "PASSENGER AIR BAG."

10. (Previously presented) The vehicle rearview mirror assembly of claim 9, wherein said second indicia symbol includes a plurality of alphanumeric letters spelling the word "OFF."

11. (Previously presented) The vehicle rearview mirror assembly of claim 10, wherein said third indicia symbol includes a plurality of alphanumeric letters spelling the word "ON."

12. (Previously presented) The vehicle rearview mirror assembly of claim 11, wherein said first light source includes a plurality of LEDs.

Applicant : Bradley L. Northman et al.
Appln. No. : 09/586,813
Page : 7

13. (Previously presented) The vehicle rearview mirror assembly of claim 12, wherein said indicia panel includes at least one registration hole and wherein said housing includes at least one registration protrusion for engaging said registration hole.

14. (Previously presented) The vehicle rearview mirror assembly of claim 12, wherein said indicia panel includes two registration holes and wherein said housing includes two registration protrusions for respectively engaging said registration holes.

15. (Previously presented) The vehicle rearview mirror assembly of claim 14, wherein said housing includes a bezel and wherein said two registration protrusions protrude from said bezel.

16. (Previously presented) The vehicle rearview mirror assembly of claim 15 and further comprising a printed circuit board disposed in said housing substantially parallel to a rear surface of said mirror subassembly, wherein said light sources include LEDs that are surface mounted to said printed circuit board.

17. (Previously presented) The vehicle rearview mirror assembly of claim 16, wherein said mirror subassembly is an electrochromic mirror subassembly.

18. (Previously presented) The vehicle rearview mirror assembly of claim 8, wherein said indicia panel includes at least one registration hole and wherein said housing includes at least one registration protrusion for engaging said registration hole.

19. (Previously presented) The vehicle rearview mirror assembly of claim 8, wherein said mirror subassembly is an electrochromic mirror subassembly.

20. (Currently amended-withdrawn) A rearview mirror assembly for a vehicle, comprising:
a housing:

Applicant : Bradley L. Northman et al.
Appln. No. : 09/586,813
Page : 8

a mirror subassembly including a reflector layer with a portion defining an opening;
~~an indicia~~ panel covering the opening, ~~the panel~~ and configured to form a visual display
of ~~indicia~~, the indicia having a characteristic color;

a printed circuit board disposed in said housing substantially parallel to a rear surface of
said mirror subassembly; and

a plurality of LEDs positioned in the housing that are mounted to said printed circuit
board to ~~pass-emit~~ light through the indicia on the panel and through the opening of the mirror
subassembly to selectively illuminate the ~~visual display~~indicia, said plurality of LEDs emitting
light matched in color to the characteristic color of the ~~visual display of the indicia panel~~.

21. (New) The mirror defined in claim 1, wherein the panel comprises a translucent diffuser
layer having the characteristic color of the indicia, and an opaque layer selectively applied over
the diffuser layer so as to define an outline of the indicia and thereby absorb light from that
otherwise not emitted through the indicia.

22. (New) The mirror defined in claim 1, wherein the panel comprises a light absorbing
background having a color that is visually distinguishable over the characteristic color of the
indicia such that the indicia is viewable in its characteristic color even when no light from the at
least one light source is emitted therethrough.